

**THE GREASBROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**Annual Report**

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**For the Year 1914,**

— BY —

**JNO. F. CHEESEWRIGHT**

**(M.R.C.S., England, &c.),**

**Medical Officer of Health.**



**Rotherham :**

**C. M. RATCLIFFE, PRINTER, CHURCH STREET.**

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**1915.**



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Greasbrough  
Urban District Council.*



GENTLEMEN,

The time has again come round when I am required to lay before you my Annual Report on the Health and the Sanitary condition of the Urban District of Greasbrough, to review the work done, and to consider what still requires to be done.

The Vital Statistics and other information regarding the incidence of disease, the measures taken to prevent the occurrence and spread of disease as much as is possible, and other matters for which you are responsible, are tabulated in convenient form for reference, and included in my report.

For the purposes of these tables I have estimated the population of the District as 3,150.

**The Birth Rate (per 1,000 of the Population).**

The Birth Rate, like the population of Greasbrough, never varies much. The total Births for 1914 were 94, which gives a rate of 29·8.

Since 1909, the Rate has varied between 30·3, which was the highest, and 26·1 which was the lowest in that period.

It is a subject which, to those who know Greasbrough, requires no comment from me.

**Infantile Mortality.**

By Infantile Mortality is meant the deaths of Infants during the first year of existence.

The Rate is the deaths of such Infants per 1,000 Births.

This is the Rate which varies most, and always has varied considerably in your District, for the reason that it is only when dealing with large numbers that these Rates have much significance. The Rate for 1912 was 83·3 ; for 1913, 85·1, while for 1911 it was as high as 195·1. For 1914 it was 159·5. The total deaths numbered 15. Six of the infants did not survive one week.

Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation and Atrophy accounted for 4 : Atelectasis, 1 ; Convulsions, 4 ; Whooping Cough, 2 ; Bronchitis, 1 ; Pneumonia, 1 ; Tuberculous Disease, 2.

You have for some months enjoyed the services of a Female Health Visitor, and are now waiting to see some result, especially in relation to the care of infants under one year of age.

I am not aware of any particular cause, removable by you, responsible for the deaths of these fifteen infants, which give to your area the Infantile Mortality of 159·5.

### **Death Rate at all Ages (per 1,000 of the Population).**

The Deaths which occurred in and were registered in the District number 48, giving a Death Rate of 15·2. These figures have to be corrected by the addition of the number of deaths of persons who actually resided in the District, but died and were registered in other Districts, and by the subtraction of those cases in which death occurred in your District, and were registered there, which properly belong to other districts.

This corrected Death Rate is 17·1 for 1914. The total deaths (corrected) numbered 54.

Of these 15 were under 1 year.

15 between 25 and 45.

12       ,       45       ,,   65.

12 over 65.

Among the causes of death—other than deaths of infants under one year—were Heart Disease, 4; Influenza, 3; Bronchitis, 3; Pneumonia, 3; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 3; Tubercular Meningitis, 1; Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 2; Appendicitis, 1.

There is no one cause of death which appears to me to figure prominently, and which might be regarded as the result of some local cause.

There have been no deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease other than Tuberculous Disease, or from Measles.

### Infectious Diseases.

There were in all 50 cases of Infectious Disease (including Tuberculous Disease) notified during the year. As is so often the case, Scarlet Fever takes the foremost place with 35 cases, 30 of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Wath, and in all cases the homes were disinfected.

It is disappointing that after the cost of this isolation, which is considerable, there appears to be so little result, so far as reducing the number of cases is concerned. For the primary object of the maintenance of the Isolation Hospital is not the treatment of cases which have occurred, but the prevention of the spread of the disease, and it is disappointing to see one after another all the members of a family affected, and cases continually appearing in different parts of the District. There was not what can be called an epidemic during the year, and there does not appear to have been any particular centre from which the disease was disseminated, but cases have kept occurring in different and sometimes widely separate parts of the District. There has been some reason to apprehend that parents of children have not fully realised their duty and responsibility in this matter, and with my approval you issued a poster warning parents and guardians on the subject.



I am able to say that you have treated this matter seriously and have done what you could to control this disease.

No deaths occurred among those affected.

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There were two cases of Diphtheria, and one of Enteric Fever, four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and three cases of other forms of Tuberculosis disease notified.

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There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

### **Water and Milk Supply.**

Greasbrough receives a supply of good water through the Rotherham Corporation, and that Authority takes every precaution to ensure that it is in a fit condition for use as drinking water.

The Milk Supply is from Dairy Farms, which, being situate in the district, are under your own supervision, and are kept in a satisfactory condition

I have no reason, after having made investigations, to attribute any of the disease in the district to contamination of the Milk in the Dairies, which are periodically visited and inspected.

### **Scavenging.**

This is, I believe, on the whole satisfactory. It cannot, however, be too much impressed upon those doing the work that Middens and Refuse Receptacles must be emptied with a regularity which never permits such places to be overfull at any time.

The Sanitary Inspector, I am aware, is alive to this necessity, and he has your full support in seeing that these matters are duly attended to.

I have frequently advised you, as I do once more, to take every opportunity of substituting W.C.'s in place of Privies and Middens throughout your District.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

No serious cases of Nuisance arising from your Drainage and Sewerage system have come under my observation during the year.

One part of your area is, however, defective in this respect. I refer to Nether Haugh. I am certainly of opinion that a scheme for the disposal of the Drainage and Sewerage from this part of your district ought to be taken in hand. I have gone over the ground and satisfied myself that it is both desirable and practicable.

Another matter to which I wish to direct your attention is the Cesspools which exist on some of the farms. In certain cases the contents are allowed to overflow and find their way, it is to be feared, into the nearest stream, which, in turn, must cause a certain amount of river pollution. Where Cesspools are not properly constructed, the Landlord must be compelled to make them satisfactory, but in cases which have come under my notice in 1914, the Cesspools were properly constructed and fitted with proper appliances for emptying, and yet were allowed to overflow. In such cases the tenants must be compelled to empty the tanks regularly, and have the contents properly disposed of.

## Housing Regulations, 1910.

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### Dwelling House Inspection.

I append to this Report a Summary of work done under the above Regulations. I would point out to you that in Greasbrough, for its size, the proportion of houses to be dealt with is large, and the designated officer cannot be expected to give a great deal of time to the work, while the Medical Officer's position is even less enviable in relation to this extra work. It is therefore desirable that the same houses should not require to be visited and reported upon for the same defects repeatedly.

There were 14 houses selected by me and submitted to you for inspection, and I have personally seen most of them along with your officer, though in some cases, owing to illness, the work was done by my deputy. The one house which last year I had to report as "not reasonably fit for human habitation," has ceased to exist.

The nature of the defects found in the houses inspected were such as defective privies, badly paved backyards, defective doors and stairs, broken or otherwise defective spouting, worn-out sinks, walls damp, plaster defective on interiors, and bad ventilation.

The response by the owners to the request by you to remedy the defects have not been all that is desired, or all that must be enforced. Already during 1914, the County Authority has urged you to expedite matters, and my deputy spent the better part of one forenoon going over certain of the defective houses with a County Council Inspector.

I do not urge you to adopt an unreasonable attitude towards the owners of dwelling houses in Greasbrough, and I myself am of opinion that when rents and rates go up very much, Greasbrough will gradually cease to be.



But you must recognise—as I have no doubt you do—that in the future a higher ideal as to working-people's dwellings must be aimed at than in the past, and I am sure that Greasbrough District Council will not, in this matter, shirk its duty and responsibility.

Tables I., II., III., IV., V. and C. are attached.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. F. CHEESEWRIGHT.

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1914.

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### Work done during the Year.

General Inspections	...	...	...	...	180
Drains reconstructed	...	...	..	...	20
Special Visits to Drains and W.C.'s	...	...			36
Formal Notices given	...	...	...	...	21
Special Visits <i>re</i> Scavenging	...	...	..		400
Lists supplied „ „	...	...	...		40
Visits and Fumigating Houses in cases of Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever and Phthisis	...	..	..		85

Regular and systematic visiting of the District has been done during the year; all cases requiring attention have been promptly attended to, and the Bye-Laws and Orders of the Council complied with to my satisfaction.

There are 13 Dairies and Cowsheds in the District. These have been regularly inspected, and offer little ground for complaint. Modern Rules relating to Milking, Storing and Distributing Milk in a proper condition, have been supplied for the benefit and information of the Cowkeepers.

There is only one registered Slaughter House in the District, and this is kept in a cleanly condition; it has been inspected weekly. The carcasses have also been regularly examined.

P. G. WILKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector.



TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

Year.	BIRTHS.				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
	Nett.								Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Un-correct'd Number.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registe'd in the District.	of Resi-dents not registe'd in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Numbr.	Rate .
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	3200	97	97	30.3	50	14.0	...	...	11	113.4	...	...
1910	3222	87	87	27.0	38	11.7	...	...	6	68.9	..	...
1911	3136	82	82	26.1	48	15.3	1	5	16	195.1	52	16.5
1912	3136	83	84	26.7	36	11.4	2	8	7	83.3	42	13.3
1913	3140	94	94	29.9	46	14.6	12	8	8	85.1	42	13.3
1914	3150	94	94	29.8	48	15.2	4	10	15	159.5	54	17.1

Area of District in acres  
(exclusively of area  
covered by water

At census of 1911—Total population at all ages, 3136.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							Total cases removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages — Years.						1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
		Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 13.	13 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65								65 and upwards		
Small Pox .....																	1
Cholera .....																	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup .....	2		1														30
Erysipelas .....	4		1														
Scarlet Fever .....	35		7	27	1												1
Typhus Fever .....																	
Enteric Fever .....	1																
Relapsing Fever .....																	
Continued Fever .....									1								
Puerperal Fever .....	1																
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....																	
Poliomyelitis .....	4			1	1		2										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....				2													
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	3	1															
Totals ..	50	1	9	32	2	2	3	1									32

Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation—Wath and North Rotherham Joint Infections Hospital, Sanatoria, &c.—Rotherham Workhouse Sanatorium.



TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.  1	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District. 11
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 2. 4	2 and under 5. 5	5 and under 15. 6	15 and under 25. 7	25 and under 45. 8	45 and under 65. 9	65 and upwards. 10	
ALL ) Certified.....	53	14	4	2	5		4	12	12	
CAUSES. ) Uncertified .....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric Fever .....										
Small Pox.....										
Measles .....										
Scarlet Fever .....										
Whooping Cough .....	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria and Croup .....										
Influenza .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	
Erysipelas.....										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis) .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	
Tuberculous Meningitis...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Cancer (malignant disease) .....										
Rheumatic Fever.....										
Meningitis.....										
Organic Heart Disease .....	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	
Bronchitis.....	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis.....	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Cirrhosis of Liver .....										
Alcoholism .....										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .										
Puerperal Fever .....										
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition...										
Congenital Debility and Malfor- mation, including Premature Birth.....	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Violent Deaths,excludi'g Suicide	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Suicide .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Other Defined Diseases.....	20	5	1	1	1	...	2	3	7	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown										
All Causes...	54	15	4	2	5	...	4	12	12	

TABLE IV.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1914

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
ALL CAUSES.	Certified .....	5	1	...	1	7	2	2	3	...	14
	Uncertified .....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Small Pox .....											
Chicken Pox.....											
Measles .....											
Scarlet Fever .....					1	1	...		1	...	2
Whooping Cough.....											
Diphtheria and Croup.....											
Erysipelas.....											
Tuberculous Meningitis .....								1	...		1
Abdominal Tuberculosis.....								1	...		1
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....											
Meningitis (not Tuberculosis) .....						3	1	...			4
Convulsions .....		3	...								
Laryngitis .....									1	...	1
Bronchitis .....									1	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) .....											
Diarrhœa .....											
Enteritis .....											
Gastritis.....											
Syphilis .....											
Rickets .....											
Suffocation, overlying .....											
Injury at Birth.....						1	...				1
Atelectasis .....		1	...								1
Congenital Malformations.....		1	...			1	...				2
Premature Birth .....		1	...			1	1	...			1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...			1	...		1	...				
Other Causes .....											
Totals .....		6	1	...	1	8	2	2	3	...	15

Nett Births in the year—Legitimate, 93 ; Illegitimate, 1.

Nett Deaths in the year—Legitimate Infants, 15 ; Illegitimate Infants, Nil.

TABLE V.

## Summary of Housing Work during 1914.

Action under Section 15.			Houses with Defects not disposed of at end of 1914.	
Houses inspected under the Act and Regulations in 1913.	Houses found not reasonably fit for Human Habitation.	Houses for which Notices were given to execute Works.	Houses with minor defects (P.H. Acts).	House totally unfit for Human Habitation.
14	0	14	14	0

Though not completed at the end of 1914, many of the defects noted are in process of being remedied.

